

FINAL REPORT

LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE

**BIOTECHNOLOGY
2005**

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Biotechnology Task Force

Members of the Task Force:

Senator Gary Schroeder, Co-chair	Representative Doug Jones, Co-chair
Senator Hal Bunderson	Representative Darrell Bolz
Senator Charles Coiner	Representative Ann Rydalch
Senator Russell Fulcher	Representative Frank Henderson
Senator Bert Marley	Representative Nicole LeFavour

Staff: Maureen Ingram and Toni Hobbs

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**Senate and House of Representatives
State of Idaho
Biotechnology Task Force
2005**

FINAL REPORT

Charge

Speaker of the House of Representatives Bruce Newcomb and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Robert L. Geddes each issued a letter, on May 27, 2005, and June 1, 2005, respectively, appointing five members from each of their bodies to serve on a joint Senate/House Biotechnology Task Force. According to Speaker Newcomb, the charge of the task force was to “undertake and complete a study of the economic development opportunities relating to the bioscience industry in the state of Idaho, particularly in the areas of agriculture, biosciences, imaging, power and energy, and nanoscience.” Pro Tem Geddes confirmed that charge and also offered a draft mission statement which directed the task force to “prepare the State and its legislative bodies to appropriately support and assist in creating a viable and healthy growth environment for the industry.”

Membership and Meetings

Senator Gary Schroeder, Co-chair (Moscow)	Representative Doug Jones Co-chair (Filer)
Senator Hal Bunderson (Meridian)	Representative Darrell Bolz (Caldwell)
Senator Charles Coiner (Twin Falls)	Representative Ann Rydalch (Idaho Falls)
Senator Russell Fulcher (Meridian)	Representative Frank Henderson (Post Falls)
Senator Bert Marley (McCammon)	Representative Nicole LeFavour (Boise)

The task force held four meetings in Boise on July 27, September 7, September 29, and November 1, 2005. The complete minutes of each meeting are available on the Internet at the Legislature’s home page, “www.legislature.idaho.gov,” under Prior Sessions, 2005 Session, 2005 Interim Committees, Biotechnology Task Force.

Defining the Biosciences

According to Battelle Memorial Institute, the biosciences can be divided into five major categories with subsectors in each category. The first three categories are considered product-oriented, while the last two categories are service-oriented.

1. Agricultural feedstocks and chemicals: industrial inorganic chemicals; fertilizers; and other agricultural chemicals.

2. Drugs and pharmaceuticals: medicinals and botanicals; pharmaceutical preparations; diagnostic substances; and biological products.
3. Medical devices and equipment: laboratory apparatus and furniture; surgical, medical, dental, and analytical instruments and equipment; and X-ray and electromedical equipment.
4. Hospitals and laboratories: general medical and surgical hospitals; psychiatric hospitals; specialty hospitals; and medical and dental laboratories.
5. Research and testing: biological research; medical research; food and seed testing laboratories; and veterinary testing laboratories.

Why Should Idaho Be Interested in the Bioscience Industry?

It is estimated that the biosciences are expected to grow at a faster rate in the next decade than any other industry sector, and that rate will be 13 percent greater than the average growth rate for overall U.S. employment. Currently, approximately 885,000 people, located in over 17,000 companies across all 50 states, are employed in the biosciences. Biosciences provide a wide breadth of opportunities in the various subsectors, and offer high-skill, high-wage jobs across a range of occupations. Bioscience industries provide stability because demand for medically-related products and food products remains fairly constant from year to year. In addition, thousands of jobs in construction, maintenance and service-related fields are created to support bioscience companies. Investment in the biosciences can lead to improved health care, a cleaner environment and healthier foods. Idaho is well-positioned to become a leader in the development of agricultural biotechnology and has strengths upon which to build: its high-quality, sophisticated, diversified agricultural industry; its well-educated, experienced farmers with management skills and expertise in raising crops for specialty markets; and its continually growing technology-based companies.

History of Recent State Support of Biosciences in Idaho

In 1999, Governor Kempthorne created the **Science and Technology Advisory Council** by Executive Order, and renewed it in 2004. This group provides statewide leadership for science and technology, and has forged partnerships among industry, universities, state government and the federal Idaho National Laboratory. It created a strategic plan for the state to develop and strengthen Idaho's technology industry and identified core competencies. In Phase I, one of the identified core competencies was biosciences; in Phase II, that competency was further defined as agriculture/biosciences, imaging, power and energy, and nanosciences and materials.

The **Science and Technology Advisory Council** has established three **TechConnect** offices, which are located in Nampa, Idaho Falls and Post Falls, to assist emerging companies that are looking for support in developing their business plans. More than 300 companies have received assistance, and even though these companies are not all exclusively biotechnology or bioscience companies, there is a bioscience component in each of the companies.

In 2004, Governor Kempthorne created the **Office of Science & Technology** within the Department of Commerce and Labor. Its mission is solely to support and develop Idaho's science and technology industry through implementation of six strategies encompassed in a strategic plan. A new position was added in 2005 to support the **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)** program. SBIR staff works with Idaho companies to assist in formulating solid proposals and submitting grant applications for

federal research dollars.

Scope of Study

During its first three meetings, the Biotechnology Task Force received a comprehensive review of activities in the biosciences that are currently in progress across the state. Representatives from public universities and laboratories, state agencies, medical facilities, the Idaho National Laboratory, industry associations, individual entrepreneurs and private manufacturing and research companies presented detailed information on a wide variety of biotechnology-related fields. Idaho's strengths and assets in these endeavors were identified, as were the state's barriers, challenges, weaknesses and critical needs.

Idaho's Strengths and Assets

Natural resources, a growing base of excellent researchers, and entrepreneurs to market technologies are Idaho's greatest assets for developing a bioscience industry.

Our agricultural infrastructure is well established, and cutting-edge research is being conducted in many areas including infectious diseases in wildlife, fish, plants and humans.

Food production is changing; crops can be harvested for multiple uses as biofuel and biomass, yielding residues for development into other bioproducts that may become more important than the primary crop.

With Idaho's abundance of free-flowing streams, aquaculture research is expanding. Specialties now include broodstock selection; feed trials and diet formulations; conservation genetics; molecular diagnostics; effluent pollution abatement; and disease detection. Because fish provide an extremely efficient source of protein, it is estimated that most of the world will use fish protein in the future. Already, Idaho's aquaculture industry produces 70 percent of the trout farmed for food in the United States.

The dairy industry has increased at a rate that now places Idaho second in the West and fifth in the nation for milk production. Advances in biotechnology are turning waste products from this industry into fuel for power plants.

Idaho has a geography that creates microclimates naturally isolated from one another, a unique and enviable environment for specialty crop and seed research because it allows for growing many varieties without cross-contamination. With our dry climate, the incidence of disease is greatly reduced.

An Idaho university campus houses a BSL-3 containment facility in which deadly organisms can be handled and studied, allowing for high-level research in particular specialties, one being in the area of bioterrorism. Because Idaho has this facility, researchers were in a position to seek biodefense funds that brought in \$2 million within a year after the lab's construction.

Multiple research facilities and centers exist on all campuses of public universities. Faculty members are becoming more adept at acquiring expensive instrumentation at lower costs.

Impressive progress has been made in the research environment. The growth in annual total research monetary awards has jumped from \$1 million to \$28 million in the last 20 years, with the potential of doubling that in the next five years.

The National Institutes of Health Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network and IDEA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence (BRIN/INBRE) grant programs have promoted collaborative and complementary biomedical research among the universities. These grants are structured in such a way that there is no single, lead university, but allow each university to find its unique niche where it has the critical mass and capabilities to excel in particular areas of bioscience research, and to do so without competing against other universities in the state for faculty or funding.

Medical institutions also have their areas of research expertise. St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise is working on individualization of cancer therapy and image quantification. Research at the Veterans Administration in Boise focuses on basic science research, and its clinical trials include work on infectious diseases such as Hepatitis C and on antibiotic research. At Boise's St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, the Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) and the Mountain States Tumor and Medical Research Institute (MSTRMI) are well known for their departments in adult and pediatric cancer research, their extensive affiliations with other oncology groups, and their clinical trials on new chemotherapy drugs, bone marrow transplants with one's own bone marrow and new ways to administer radiation.

The Idaho National Laboratory, which continues to have a strong nuclear research mission, has now expanded to a multiprogram laboratory dealing with molecular biology, biofiltration, energy security, environment and national security, fuels and materials, modeling and simulation, and is bridging bioscience to geoscience as the new frontier.

With the elimination of the federal Bureau of Mines, Idaho is poised to take a leadership role in biotechnology for mining.

Idaho passed a law that prevents local governments from instituting bans on regulating biotechnology. The law was chosen as a national model bill, and at least 13 states have passed similar legislation in the last year based on the language in Idaho's statute.

As our research enterprises grow, more people are trained for the workplace, and new technologies create opportunities for Idaho businesses and industries. Expansion of research enterprises creates more employment in Idaho, promotes development of high-value technologies, results in collaborations with experts worldwide, and creates a business experience pool for the sharing of business development practices and procedures.

Recommendations of the Task Force

As Idaho continues to recognize its assets and becomes more skilled at leveraging them, it takes ownership of its destiny and thereby gains control of the direction and growth of its bioscience industry. Based on the Biotechnology Task Force's review of the barriers, challenges, weaknesses and critical needs over which the state must take control, the task force supported the following recommendations:

1. Authorized the chairman of the task force to send a letter to Department of Administration Director Pam Ahrens, in her capacity as chairman of the Information Technology Resource Management Council (ITRMC), indicating the task force's support of ITRMC's continued efforts to create a connected, statewide high-speed fiber optic network. This communication infrastructure is currently proposed to:
 - (a) Provide conduit and fiber along Highway 95 from Lewiston to Coeur d'Alene, and then along Interstate 90 to Post Falls and Spokane;
 - (b) Connect Idaho Falls including University Place and the INL complexes (Reactor Technology Complex, Materials and Fuels Complex, and Science and Technologies Complex) through to a connection at ISU at Pocatello, then to Salt Lake City;
 - (c) Support the planned connection from Boise to Salt Lake City, and in Boise to University of Idaho and Boise State University;
 - (d) Create "spurs" along these routes for connections to rural communities and schools; and
 - (e) Provide connections through Twin Falls and through Nampa and Caldwell to connect these colleges and communities to the network. Support should also be provided for termination infrastructure at each institution for this broadband capability.Copies of the letter are to be sent to legislative leadership of both houses and to the governor.
2. Authorized requesting the Director of the Department of Commerce and Labor to forward to its Office of Science and Technology wording for a resolution supporting tax and investment incentives in the biosciences for Idaho companies, with the intent of creating economic and employment opportunities for Idaho citizens; such incentives should be tied to the creation of jobs; and it should be emphasized that Idaho is a science and technology state. BioIdaho is requested to participate in preparing the wording for such a resolution.
3. Authorized sending a memo to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee recommending that funding be reinstated for small research grants through the Higher Education Research Council; that the number of graduate student stipends at universities and colleges be increased; and that applications to utilize tobacco settlement fund moneys for bioscience and biomedical research should be encouraged. A copy of the memo will also be sent to legislative leadership of both houses.
4. Authorized the chairman of the task force to send a communication to state leaders indicating this task force recognizes the urgent need to improve, replace and upgrade laboratory and research facilities, and that investment incentives in the form of tax credits for private sector investors in bioscience and biotechnology should be given serious consideration.
5. Adopted a resolution which concludes by urging the U.S. Veterans Administration to execute its authority and leadership by authorizing the design and construction of a biomedical research facility on its Boise, Idaho, VA medical campus. (Attachment 1)
6. Adopted draft legislation requiring the director of the Department of Agriculture to "cooperate with producers, industry and technology groups, and other agencies to encourage the growth of technology within the state's agricultural industries while protecting, as necessary, the integrity of existing agriculture and agricultural marketing channels." (Draft MLI453, 2006, Attachment 2)

7. Agreed to support the development of alternative energy from biomass, and directed the chairman to request a joint report from the Department of Commerce and Labor and the Department of Agriculture on the economic advantages of mandating the 2 percent level of biodiesel fuel in each gallon of diesel fuel produced and sold in the state of Idaho. The report will provide the basis for creating legislation to implement this recommendation.
8. Endorsed the activity and funding as described by Mr. Karl Tueller to create regional and statewide boards for the protection of intellectual property and the transfer of technology, and to empower the private sector in product development, marketing, licensure and technology transfer. Mr. Tueller described the following transfer efforts: Idaho National Laboratory has its own system and funding; the universities have not developed a base for technology transfer, and funding for patents and seed money for investing is virtually nonexistent; the Science and Technology Advisory Council will be recommending support of the Idaho Research Foundation as a statewide coordinator to pursue patents and licensing agreements and boost the research capabilities of the universities; TechConnect offices, already a network funded by INL, could create a stable funding source to assist small businesses in such efforts as finding capital and obtaining legal assistance; and formation of a private, nonprofit board to raise seed money for the private sector.
9. Supported the concept embodied in a draft joint memorial to federal officials resolving that the Legislature supports and encourages the federal Department of Energy, the Administration and the Congress to identify, commit and sustain the funding necessary to allow design, development, testing and demonstration in Idaho at INL of safe, state-of-the-art, advanced nuclear energy systems than can, ultimately, be commercially replicated in other locations throughout the United States and throughout the world to reduce our dependence on foreign oil; and that the Legislature supports execution of an enhanced portfolio of bioenergy, hydropower, fuel reforming and related alternative and renewable energy research in Idaho at INL, with funding necessary to ensure the performance of these activities. (Attachment 3)
10. Authorized a letter from the chairman to the State Board of Education encouraging the board to work with colleges and universities to encourage development of technology entrepreneurship and management programs at Idaho colleges and universities by utilizing the expertise of Dr. Norris Krueger, Boise State University, and other professionals in the field for Idaho's workforce development.
11. Agreed upon the importance of further development and promotion of Centers of Excellence in agricultural technology and the biosciences at colleges and universities, noting that establishing endowed chairs does not necessarily involve additional funding. The College of Agriculture at the University of Idaho should be the lead agency to ensure there is no duplication and no conflict of roles and missions.

Conclusion

Biotechnology has the potential to be the most transformational technology in human history. It is currently revolutionizing health care, agriculture and industrial manufacturing. The bioscience industry is dedicated to encouraging continued research and development of innovative treatments and products

to improve the human condition, our environment and our way of life.

Attachment 1

Resolution

Whereas, the Biotechnology Task Force authorized by the Idaho State Legislature

recognizes the importance and responsibility of insuring that the people of the State of Idaho and the northwest region of the United States have access to the finest healthcare and medical research; and,

Whereas, the Task Force understands the critical role that biomedical research plays in maintaining medical care at a highly competent level; and,

Whereas, the Task Force knows Idaho has a number of excellent research programs in its universities, in its state-of-the-art medical communities and in private research institutes and enterprises; and,

Whereas, the Task Force believes that if these researchers are brought into close collaboration they will build strong core programs and will compete effectively for major funding; and,

Whereas, the Task Force believes that the achievement of a respected level of national recognition in certain core areas of biomedical research will further enhance the fundability of the collaborating Idaho institutions; and,

Whereas, the Task Force wants to attract recognized scientists and medical researchers to visit Idaho to work cooperatively with the Idaho research community in a formal collaboration to advance our collective knowledge and expertise and thereby expand the Idaho technology economy; and,

Whereas, the Task Force feels a special responsibility for the quality of medical service available to veterans and knows that the U. S. Veterans Administration has a special mission to provide this care and has an urgent need to upgrade medical research facilities at its Boise, Idaho VA Medical Center; and,

Whereas, the Task Force believes that the provision of a new, state-of-the-art biomedical research facility by the U.S. Veterans Administration will attract and inspire interdisciplinary teams to interact and execute productive studies on critical medical issues including infectious disease, cancer, aging and cardiology to serve, not just Idaho, but the entire region;

Now, therefore it is resolved, that the Biotechnology Task Force of the Idaho State Legislature, urges the U.S. Veterans Administration to execute its authority and leadership by authorizing the design and construction of a biomedical research facility on its Boise, Idaho VA medical campus.

Resolved this ____ day of _____, 2005. (Chairman*s signature)

Attachment 2

RSMLI453

AN ACT

Relating to duties of the director of the department of agriculture; amending section 22-103, Idaho code, to require the director to cooperate with specified entities to encourage the growth of agricultural technology in the state and to protect the integrity of existing agriculture and agricultural marketing channels; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 22-103, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

22-103. Duties of director. The director of the department of agriculture shall execute the powers and discharge the duties vested by law in him or in the department, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Pursuant to chapter 53, title 67, Idaho Code, hire, assign duties and evaluate the performance of all employees of the department.

(2) Designate employees for special assignment, office or function as the needs of the department may require.

(3) Acquire, generate, develop and disseminate information and data concerning agricultural pursuits, productivity and product quality.

(4) Encourage and promote in every practical manner, the interests of agriculture, horticulture, apiculture, aquaculture, the livestock industries, poultry and fowl raising, wool and fur-bearing animals and their allied industries.

(5) Assist, encourage and promote the organization of farmers' institutes, agricultural, horticultural, management or cooperative societies and organizations for the benefit of agricultural pursuits in this state.

(6) Promote improved methods of production, storage, sales and marketing of agricultural industries.

(7) Establish and promulgate standards of construction, use and sanitation of open and closed receptacles for farm products, and standards for grade or other classification of farm products.

(8) Prescribe and promulgate rules governing marks, brands and labels, and the registration thereof, for use upon receptacles for farm products.

(9) Promote, in the interest of the public, economical and efficient use of products and commodities used in the production of agricultural, horticultural, meats and other products and farm commodities and their distribution.

(10) Cooperate with producers, processors and consumers in devising and maintaining economical and efficient systems of distribution, and to assist in the reduction of waste and expense incidental to the marketing of agricultural products.

(11) Gather and diffuse timely information and statistics concerning supply, demand, prevailing prices and commercial movement of agricultural products.

(12) Maintain a market news service, including information concerning crops, freight rates, commission rates and such other information as may be of service to producers and consumers, and to act as a clearinghouse for information between producers and consumers.

(13) Cooperate with the secretary, colleges and universities, experiment stations, and other agencies which cooperate in devising, research and development and utilization of improved

agricultural production and other activities.

(14) Investigate the practices, methods of factors, management techniques of commission merchants, track buyers and others who receive, solicit, buy, sell, handle on commission or otherwise, or deal in grains, eggs, livestock, vegetables or other products used as human foods, to the end that distribution of such commodities through such factors, commission merchants, track buyers and others be efficiently and economically accomplished without hardship, waste or fraud.

(15) Enter and inspect any right-of-way of any irrigation canal, railway, public highway, field, orchard, nursery, fruit or vegetable packing house, store room, sales room, storage facility, depot or other place where fruits and vegetables are grown or stored and to inspect fruits, trees, plants, vines, shrubs or other articles within the state, and if such places or articles are infested with pests, insects or their eggs or larvae, or with any contagious or transmittable diseases injurious to plant life, to abate or eradicate the same as a nuisance.

(16) Provide treatment for and prevent the spread of infectious or communicable diseases among bees, livestock, fur-bearing animals or domestic animals through the systematic and periodic inspection, testing or treatment of such bees and animals at the expense of the owner thereof.

(17) Protect the livestock interests of the state from losses due to disease or hazards to animal health and communicable to humans through agricultural products. The director is authorized to regulate, as deemed necessary, commercial livestock truck washing facilities. This includes permitting for the treatment or disposal, at any location, of any wash water generated by the facility. This subsection preempts Idaho department of environmental quality's authority to issue land application permits and to do plan and specification reviews under section 39-118, Idaho Code, for livestock truck wash facilities, but does not affect any other authority of the Idaho department of environmental quality.

(18) Maintain recording of earmarks, eartags or other identifying marks not covered under any other provisions of law.

(19) Purchase, lease, hold, sell, and dispose of real and personal property of the department when, in the judgment of the director, such transactions promote the purposes for which the department is established.

(20) Contract with any state agency, federal agency or agency of another state concerning any matter, program or cooperative effort within the scope and jurisdiction of its authority pursuant to law.

(21) Assist in the improvement of country life, farm occupations and to cooperate in effectuating equality of opportunity of those employed in agricultural pursuits in the state of Idaho.

(22) Investigate diseases, contamination of livestock and poultry, agricultural, horticultural, and farm products, suspected to be infected or contaminated by bacterial, viral, protozoal, parasitic, chemical, nuclear, botanical or other disease-producing agents, or carrying a residue of any such disease-producing agent or chemical in excess of any tolerance established by federal or state law or regulation and to examine, conduct tests, and issue "hold orders" on any livestock, poultry, agricultural, horticultural or farm products as deemed necessary to effectuate a diagnosis of disease, contamination or chemical level to safeguard and protect animal and man. And additionally, authorize and implement a predator control program on state and private lands using any kind of toxic material or substance suitable for such purpose. Any toxic material or substance shall be approved for use by the director. In order to carry out the provisions of this subsection (22), the director shall prescribe and promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 52, title 67, Idaho Code.

(23) Prescribe by rule an interest charge which may be assessed on all accounts which are thirty (30) days past due from the initial billing date or the assessment due date. The interest rate

charged shall not exceed twelve percent (12%) per annum.

(24) To take all steps that are deemed necessary to prevent and control damage or conflicts on federal, state, or other public or private lands caused by predatory animals, rodents, or birds, including threatened or endangered wildlife within the state of Idaho as are established by federal or state law, federal or state regulation, or county ordinance, that are injurious to animal husbandry, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wildlife and human health and safety.

(25) To administer oaths, certify to all official acts and subpoena any person in this state as a witness; to compel through subpoena the production of books, papers, and records; and to take the testimony of any person on deposition in the same manner as prescribed by law in the procedure before the courts of this state. A subpoena issued by the director shall extend to all parts of the state and may be served by any person authorized to do so. All powers of the director enumerated in this subsection (25) with respect to administering oaths, power of subpoena, and other powers in hearings on complaints shall likewise be applicable to hearings held on applications for the issuance or renewal of licenses.

(26) To appoint, as necessary, committees for the purpose of advising the director on any and all matters relating to agricultural programs within the Idaho department of agriculture.

(27) Cooperate with producers, industry and technology groups, and other agencies to encourage the growth of technology within the state's agricultural industries while protecting, as necessary, the integrity of existing agriculture and agricultural marketing channels.

SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval.

Attachment 3

Senator Hal Bunderson
Biotechnology Task Force
November 1, 2005

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO - WORKING DRAFT - FOR
DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SECRETARY OF
ENERGY OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS
ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
STATES.

We, your memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho, assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the United States of America has become excessively dependent upon foreign sources of oil, and that dependence threatens the security of the American people and economy; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Idaho and the United States to become as energy independent and diversified as possible to avoid economic dislocations instigated by foreign oil interests, markets and the effects of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive energy legislation signed into law in 2005 advocates the expansion of nuclear energy for the production of electrical power and hydrogen, as well as the development of bioenergy and other alternative fuels to reduce dependence on foreign sources of oil; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) is the federal agency that has primary responsibility for carrying out the directives of the President and the Congress relative to enabling and enhancing the energy security of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the DOE's Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is a key national research, development and demonstration resource wherein the Federal Government has invested significant tax dollars to establish such unique and globally important assets as the Advanced Test Reactor, the Safety and Tritium Applied Research fusion facility, the Control Systems Security and Test Center, and others, all of which demand continued, or even expanded, use to assure maximum return on tax-dollar investment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho appreciates the effective, expedited cleanup that has occurred in accordance with the 1995 Settlement Agreement, and is committed to hosting continued broad-spectrum, national-priority nuclear research in Idaho as fully allowed by that agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature supports and encourages DOE, the Administration and the Congress to identify, commit and sustain the funding necessary to allow design, development, testing and demonstration in Idaho at INL of safe, state-of-the-art, advanced nuclear energy systems that can, ultimately, be commercially replicated in other locations throughout the United States and throughout the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature supports execution of an enhanced portfolio of bioenergy, hydropower, fuel reforming and related alternative and renewable energy research in Idaho at INL, and hereby requests that DOE, the Administration and the Congress identify, commit and sustain the funding necessary to allow continued performance of this and other multiprogram energy- and national-security-enhancing work so critical to the long-term well-being of these United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Energy of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the Congressional Delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.